



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Number of pages: 1

Delaware has a new State Veterinarian **Dr. Michael Vanderklok has accepted the position**

Michael Vanderklok, DVM, of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, has accepted the position as State Veterinarian with the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA). He is replacing Dr. H. Wesley Towers who retired in 2005. As State Veterinarian, Dr. Vanderklok will be the administrator of the DDA Poultry and Animal Health Section that has the responsibility to protect the health of domestic animal and avian species from the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious disease, including those transmissible to humans.

Dr. Vanderklok received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Michigan State University, initially worked as a relief veterinarian for mixed animal practices, and has spent ten years in animal health protection in the Michigan Department of Agriculture. For the last three years he has led the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program in Michigan that involves eighty-five regulatory personnel and more than three hundred and twenty-five private veterinary contractors. He lives with his wife, Stacey, who is a certified social worker, and daughters Amanda (14) and Katie (11). He and his family enjoy outdoor activities and traveling, such as camping and sailing.

When he accepted the position, Dr. Vanderklok said, "I am looking forward to working with the Delaware Department of Agriculture, and our family is excited about life in the First State."

Some of Dr. Vanderklok's experiences in animal health also include:

- Creating disease and emergency response programs cooperatively with livestock producers and associations, universities, veterinary organizations, and governmental agencies, including leading programs in numerous species including cattle, sheep and goats, cervidae, aquaculture, poultry, and exotic animals.
- Holding leadership positions in state and national veterinary medical associations and national animal health organizations.
- Serving as a consultant and advisor for animal health issues throughout North America, including hosting international representatives from numerous countries in Europe and Asia.
- Involvement in implementation of a comprehensive premises and animal identification and animal movement tracking program that serves as a model for the proposed National Animal Identification System.

Dr. Vanderklok will join the Delaware Department of Agriculture on APRIL 3, 2006.

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